

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for maintaining or reducing a level of liquids at the bottom of a gas producing well comprising:

a constriction or throat section coupled with a production pipe of the gas producing well, wherein production gas flow from the well passing upwards through the constriction or throat section into the production pipe generates a low pressure zone having a pressure less than the ambient formation gas pressure; and

a conduit having a first end and a second end, wherein:

the first end is coupled with the constriction or throat section; ~~and~~

the second end is configured to contact the liquids, ~~and wherein;~~

the liquids are located at an upstream location relative to the constriction or throat section and the conduit is configured to provide a flow path from the up-stream location within said well to said low pressure zone; and

the conduit includes one or more openings configured to provide for entry of gas into the conduit.

2. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the constriction or throat section is a Venturi.

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ~~conduit has additional~~ one or more openings are configured to provide for the entry of formation gas at locations between the up-stream location and the low pressure zone.

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ~~conduit has additional~~ one or more openings are configured to provide for the entry of formation gas passing through

the production pipe, the ~~additional~~ one or more openings being disposed at one or more locations between the up-stream location and the low pressure zone.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 4 having the ~~additional~~ one or more openings located around the circumference of the conduit at a single position between the up-stream location and the low pressure zone.

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the ~~conduit has~~ one or more openings comprise a single opening for the entry of formation gas at a position between the up-stream location and the low pressure zone

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein the conduit is adapted to maintain a constant distance between the one or more openings and the level of the liquids in the well.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the conduit is straight.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first end of the conduit is configured to provide that the conduit terminates above a section of the constriction where the constriction has its smallest diameter.

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first end of the conduit is configured to provide that the conduit terminates in a section of the constriction where the constriction has its smallest diameter.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first end of the conduit is configured to provide that the conduit terminates below a section of the constriction where the constriction has its smallest diameter.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the up-stream location is below a lowest gas producing perforation.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the constriction is located above a gas producing zone of perforations.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the constriction is located above a gas producing zone of perforations and the upstream location is located below said zone.

15. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the conduit has a length of more than 5 meters.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein ratio of the cross-sectional area of each of the ~~additional~~ the one or more openings and of the conduit is in the range of 0 to 1.

17. (Currently amended) A method for maintaining or reducing a level of liquids at the bottom of a gas producing well comprising the steps of

constricting production gas flow flowing into a production pipe at a location within the well to generate a low pressure zone having a pressure less than the ambient formation gas pressure; ~~and~~

providing a conduit in the gas producing well configured to establish a flow path for the liquids disposed at the bottom of the gas producing well, said flow path flowing from the level of the liquids at an up-stream location within said well to said low pressure zone; and

providing at least one opening in the conduit for entry of formation gas into said conduit.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of determining a gas flow rate, a height over which the liquids have to be lifted to reach the low pressure zone and a number representing the size of the constriction such that the low pressure lifts the liquids over said height.

Appl. No. 10/849,745
Amdt. dated October 26, 2006
Reply to Office Action of July 31, 2006

PATENT
Docket No.: 57.0498 US NP

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of latching a flow constriction onto a bottom section of the production pipe.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of maintaining the position of the at least one opening at a constant height above the level of the liquids in the well.